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SUBJECT: FORUM FOR THE FUTURE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE AND FUND FOR THE FUTURE

1. SUMMARY. Initial contributing governments to the Foundation for the Future and Fund for the Future gathered for a public announcement of the new initiatives on the margins of the November 11-12 Forum for the Future conference in Manama. All speakers emphasized the importance of democratic and economic reform for a prosperous future for the broader Middle East. Secretary Rice emphasized that the mission of the projects is to empower the citizens of the region to secure their own freedoms, to build their own democracies and to lead their own countries to greater hope and dignity. END SUMMARY.

Empowering Citizens, Fueling Prosperity

2. As part of the President's Freedom Agenda, the U.S. and other G-8 and international partners announced the launch of the Foundation for the Future and the Fund for the Future November 12. An international non-profit entity, the Foundation will fund local non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, professional associations, and others in the region promoting political reform. The Fund will provide capital to small and medium-sized enterprises to help stimulate economic growth.

3. Secretary Rice emphasized that the purpose of the Foundation is to empower the citizens of the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) to secure their own freedoms, to build their own democracies, and to lead their own countries to greater hope and dignity. The Foundation will empower citizens working for democratic reform to use grant money for the projects they deem most effective. The Secretary thanked Shaikha Mozza, the first lady of Qatar, for

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a \$10 million donation to the Foundation. Turning to the Fund, she said it is designed to help stimulate the private sector in the region, particularly small and medium size enterprises, to fuel employment and prosperity. Activities will begin in the two regional countries that contributed to the Fund - Egypt and Morocco - but will spread to all regional states that choose the path of economic liberty and reform.

Comments of International Partners

4. Bahraini FM Shaikh Khalid al-Khalifa described the Fund and Foundation as key underpinnings to the goals of the Forum, and the governments of Egypt, Morocco, Denmark, and the U.S. signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Fund.

5. Jordanian Planning Minister Al-Ali expressed hope the Foundation will become an important tool for increased freedom and democracy and empowerment of civil society. Governments must listen to civil society's views on priority areas for reform. She expressed pride that Jordan was the first Arab country to announce its support for the Foundation and invited senior officials to the first preparatory meeting in Jordan in December.

6. European Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner said some of the one billion Euros of EC aid for the broader Middle East would go to the Foundation to support the objective of a prosperous and stable region.

7. Human Rights Training and Information Center official Ezzadine Al-Asbahi affirmed civil society's support for the Foundation. The Foundation is the culmination of a series of consultations between state and non-state actors, designed to help fulfill people's aspirations for development, freedom, and dignity. He urged governments and the private sector to lend their support and expertise to the new institution.

8. Calling democracy the only path to a prosperous future, Qatari FM Al-Thani offered to host the Foundation for the Future and to ensure its independence and freedom.

9. Egyptian Investment Minister Mohieldin said the Fund represents a great opportunity to expand export and

investment projects in the region. Projects should emphasize good governance, transparency, accountability, openness, rights of workers, and environmental protection.

10. Danish FM Moeller expressed his expectation that more countries in the region will join the Fund by the time of the next Forum.

11. Moroccan FM Benaissa applauded the growth in the conference's representation from the civil society sector from five at last year's meeting in Rabat to 40 this year in Manama. He hoped the Fund would expand growth, employment, wealth, and innovation.

Contributing Countries/Organizations

12. The following officials participated in the launch of the Fund and Foundation (known contributions in parentheses):

- U.S. - Secretary Rice (Foundation: \$35.5 million over two years; Fund: \$50 million)
- UK - Foreign Minister Straw (Foundation: \$1 million)
- Jordan - Planning Minister Al-Ali
- European Commission - Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner (Foundation: 1 million Euros)
- Qatar - Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Thani (Foundation: \$10 million)
- Denmark - Foreign Minister Moeller (Foundation: \$2 million; Fund: \$1 million)
- Greece - Foreign Minister Molyviatus (Foundation: \$1.5 million)
- Hungary - Foreign Minister Somogyi (Foundation: in-kind support through the Democracy Center)
- Italy - Under Secretary Mantica (Foundation: \$1 million)
- Netherlands - Director van Lynden
- Spain - Foreign Minister Moratinos (Foundation: \$1 million)
- Switzerland - State Secretary Ambuel
- Turkey - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Gul (Foundation: \$500,000)
- Lebanon - Foreign Minister Salloukh
- Egypt - Investment Minister Mohieldin (Fund: \$20 million)
- Morocco - Foreign Minister Benaissa (Fund: \$20 million)

Three non-governmental organizations also took part:

- Human Rights Information and Training Center - Ezzadine Al-Asbahi
- No Peace Without Justice - Emma Bonino
- Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation - Mensur Akgun

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